

The claimed invention is:

5 1. A carton having two compartments made from a single corrugated cardboard blank having a series of five panels separated by fold lines, a glue flap on each end of said blank, a first three panels in said series of panels having widths equal to panel widths of corresponding sides of a first of said compartments, a next and fourth in said series of panels having a width equal to a sum of side widths of said two compartments, a fifth and last in said series of panels having a width equal to the width of an opposite side of said carton, and a first of said glue flaps next to said fifth panel having a width exceeding a side width of a second of said compartments by a margin, a second of the glue flaps being adjacent the first three panels in the series of panels, said second glue flap being glued to an inside surface of said fourth panel at a location separating the widths of said two compartments, and the margin of the first of the glue flaps being glued to an outside surface of a second in said series of three panels.

10 2. The carton of claim 1 and flaps on the bottoms of said panels for folding inwardly to close and seal the bottom of said carton, and a tab on the bottom of said first of said glue flaps, said tab being glued over a bottom flap on a second of the series of three panels.

15 3. The carton of claim 2 and a flap on the top edge of each panel in said series of five panels, the flaps on top of the first four of said panels forming a top for said first compartment, whereby said top flaps may be closed and sealed over the first compartment while said second compartment remains open.

4. The carton of claim 3 and a flap on a top edge of said fifth panel forming a top which tucks into and temporarily closes said second compartment.

5. A two compartment inventory control carton comprising a unitary blank having a first plurality of panels which fold to become a first of said two compartments, at least one of said panels and a flap forming two opposite walls of a second of said two compartments, one of said plurality of panels being common to both of said two compartments and forming a third wall of said second compartment, a first means for closing one of said compartments and a second means for temporarily closing the other of said compartments.

6. The carton of claim 5 and flaps common to the panels forming said first compartment for folding over to close said first compartment whereby a first person may fill and close said first compartment while leaving said second of said compartments empty, said second means being at least one panel having a flap for tucking into said second compartment, whereby a person may load said second compartment after said first compartment is closed.

7. The carton of claim 6 wherein said first compartment is filled with a first product and said second compartment is filled with a second product for ultimately combining with said first product.

8. The carton of claim 7 wherein said first product in said first compartment is a pillow for forming a pet bed and said second product in said second compartment is a cover for said pillow.

9. A method of inventory control where a first product is to be packaged with a second product, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a carton having two compartments, a first of said compartments including means for separately closing and sealing said first compartment, a second of said compartments including means for temporarily closing and opening said second compartment;

5 (b) inserting said first product into said first compartment;

(c) keeping an inventory comprising a plurality of said second products;

(d) selecting one of said second products from said inventory of step (c);

(e) opening said second compartment and placing said selected second product therein; and

10 (f) closing said second compartment.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said first product is a pillow, and step (b) comprises the further steps of placing said pillow in a plastic bag; drawing a vacuum in said plastic bag thereby compacting and minimizing the dimensions of said pillow; and placing said pillow in said first compartment while in said compacted and minimized condition.

11. The method of claim 10 and the further step of closing and sealing said first compartment with said compacted and minimized pillow therein, and shipping said carton with said pillow sealed in the first compartment.

12. The method of claim 11 and the further step of inserting a selected cover  
20 for said pillow in said second compartment.

13. The method of claim 9 wherein steps (a) and (b) are performed at a first location, the carton is then shipped to a second location, and steps (c)-(f) are performed at said second location.

Sub B 14. A system (for shipping a pet bed in a delivery carton), said system comprising: a unitary carton having a large and a small compartment therein, (means for compacting a portion of said pet bed to fit into said large compartment), means for sealing said large compartment (with said portion of said pet bed enclosed therein) and  
5 means for temporarily closing said small compartment (whereby said carton may be shipped and stored with the large compartment filled and the small compartment empty.)

Sub 15. The system of claim 14 (wherein said portion of said pet bed is a pillow and said means for compacting said bed comprises a bag dimensioned to receive said  
10 pillow, and a vacuum pump connected to said bag to withdraw air therefrom.)